



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 26, 2005

MEMO TO: Don Lee, Berry Jenkins, Michael Taylor, John Bernhoft, Jay Bennett, Shannon Sweitzer, Judith Corley-Lay, Stuart Bourne, Jonathan Bivens, Jennifer Brandenburg, Brian Webb, John Couture, Dave Rankin and Dave Hurley

FROM: J. V. Barbour, P. E.
State Project Services Engineer

SUBJECT: AGC/Roadway Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2005

The subject committee met on March 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Project Services Conference Room at the Century Center with the following in attendance:

Berry Jenkins	Dave Rankin	Eddie Spencer
Ellis Powell	Don Lee	Shannon Sweitzer
Victor Barbour	Dave Hurley	Dan Bernhoff
Randy Garriss	Michael Taylor	Norma Smith
Jay Bennett	Brian Webb	Ricky Vick
Judith Corley-Lay	Dennis Jernigan	

The following items were discussed:

1. **CHANNEL STABILIZATION**

The permit condition which states that *wherever possible channels shall have vegetation established prior to placing water in them* is a concern as to who determines what *whenever possible* means, and who determines whether *vegetation has been established*. The agency that issues the permit has final decision as to the interpretation of those phrases. The Department's role is to assure compliance with the permit conditions. The interpretation of these requirements has and will continue to be an area of concern. The emphasis has been to work on different methods and techniques to shorten the time it takes to establish vegetation. The other option since this mitigation is on a 1:1; basis is to use the 2:1 (or higher) for offsite mitigation to speed up construction. The Committee discussed the Department and Contractor picking a stream/channel on an existing project to try mulch or bonded fiber matrix to speed up channel stabilization. The Committee may form a small group to determine which is the more cost-effective solution.

2. ABC IN WINTER MONTHS

The Committee discussed the interpretation of the specifications for placing ABC in winter months. In the *Specifications Book*, it states base course that has been placed between November 15 and March 15 must be covered with a subsequent layer of pavement structure or a sand seal within 7 days. The placing means it is to be compacted and fine graded. The 7 days starts when the surface is completed (compacted and fine-graded). ABC placed and left bare will degrade and is useless by spring. The Department will review the language and may clarify in the new *Specifications Book*.

3. FINE GRADING AND STRIPPING

The Industry discussed a letter sent out by Warren Walker on a turnkey project related to the payment for material that is generated from fine grading operations that is stockpiled and then brought back to construct shoulders.

The Department's objective is to pay for the material needed to construct a project and to not pay for double handing of materials.

The Industry said that they have to grade higher by machine (1-2 inches) and then have to manipulate separately, which involves a second operation. The Department prefers to adhere to the memo and that the cost be shown elsewhere instead of paying for borrow twice.

The Department asked about paying for shoulder reconstruction per 1000 feet; then the Contractor could determine what was needed. The Industry stated that there is more risk involved in reconstruction incidental prices, making the prices higher.

The Department asked if 2 different specifications, turnkey versus non-turnkey are needed. The specifications rewrite process has begun and the Department will have that committee review it.

4. CADD FILES AVAILABILITY DURING BIDDING

No comments were received from the Industry concerning the availability of CADD files during the bidding. The Department stated that there are so many levels available that only an expert CADD person would find it useful.

The Industry replied that they wanted line and grade levels and requested a menu of items available for their review and feedback.

5. FINAL PUNCH LIST ITEMS – FEEDBACK

The Department stated that no comments were received from the Industry. Ron Hancock presented the list at the Bridge Subcommittee Meeting for comments. Shannon will combine his list with Ron's list and finalize. The list will be made available to the Industry for review before final inspection. Industry asked for feedback from members.

6. BID ALTERNATES

The Department would like to provide bidders with choices of material types or construction methodologies during the bidding process and would like to do this without providing detailed designs and quantities as in the past. The Department requested comments from the Industry about whether this is something that would add value and if it is, pursue what is the best way to add it to a contract. Comments are to be emailed to Victor Barbour at <mailto:vbarbour@dot.state.nc.us>.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. ACCEPTANCE TESTING OF SOIL CEMENT BASE

The Committee discussed soil cement base, its requirements and acceptance criteria, such as the temperature, curing time, performance testing and compressive strength acceptance criteria.

The Department discussed the acceptance testing for soil-cement base. Due to the temperature, weather and curing time required, soil cement base often is on the critical path of a project. The Industry would like to see a way to speed up the time required for testing and acceptance. The Committee discussed establishing some kind of acceptance criteria (maturity curves at different ground temperatures) that could possibly shorten the time. The Department will gather data and determine if different criteria can be established.

8. SINGLE-FACED BARRIER

The Industry said some contractors have been receiving single faced barrier with an approximately 3/8 inch bar, with no cotter pin, no cap or head screw, but has rod all the way up grouted into the barrier. They wanted to know if this met the NCHRP 350 requirements.

The Department reviewed and stated that the single-faced barrier has not been NCHRP350 crash tested, however FHWA representatives have stated that for the single-faced barriers intended use (full height supported), and based on the history of its use, testing is not necessary. Single faced barrier (Std. 857.01) should have a connection pin of 1-inch diameter steel.

9. CEMENT AND STEEL SUPPLIES

The Industry said the cement supply would be as bad or worse than last year.

The Industry stated that steel prices, went down some, but may be back up by summer.

10. SAFETY PLAN PRELIMINARY DRAFT

The Department distributed a Draft Project Safety Plan and asked for feedback from the Industry. The purpose is for the project to have a safety plan, with the competent person identified, with a copy to the RE.

The Industry was concerned that the safety plan would be used by the attorneys in the event of a death or accident on the project site. The Department may consider making this part of the prequalification plan as a corporate safety plan. Please email comments to Shannon at <mailto:sweitzer@dot.state.nc.us>. See Attachment No 2.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 11, 2005, in the Project Services Conference Room. The remaining meeting dates for 2005 are July 13, September 14 and November 9. All meetings will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Project Services Conference Room. You may want to reserve all day for the meeting in case they run long, or there is a need to make a field trip in the afternoon.

cc: Randy Garris, P.E.
Steve DeWitt, P.E.
Ellis Powell, P.E.
Art McMillan, P.E.
Ted Sherrod, P.E.
Jim McMellon, P.E.
Dennis Jernigan, P.E.
Norma Smith

Draft

Attachment No. 1

DRAFT--- PROJECT SAFETY PLAN**MARCH 14, 2005**

Establish and submit a project specific safety plan, which provides a safe and healthful environment for all construction personnel, proper maintenance of traffic and safety of the traveling public through the work zone. Identify, within the safety plan, the requirements for all subcontractors.

At minimum, the safety plan should detail the following:

- Safety Officer with contact information

- List of employees with OSHA or safety related certifications

- Individual/s responsible for monitoring and enforcing safe conditions on daily basis

- Employee safety orientation

- Annual, monthly, weekly or daily safety meetings

- Safety training initiatives

- Safety standards and measurements

- Safety procedures to address the Department's four emphasis areas: fall protection, crane safety, back-up alarms and trenching/shoring.

REQUIRED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR

- Procedures in place for communication of unsafe acts and/or safety improvements

- Accountability process to include incident investigation procedures

SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES FOR SUBCONTRACTORS PERFORMING WORK

In addition to the above company policies, provide safety procedures specific to the project work zone and daily project operations such as:

- Identification of ingress and egress from work areas

- Lane closure installation and maintenance

- Public information plan to notify traveling public of upcoming or recent traffic changes

- Night time work plan to include lighting requirements

- Blasting program

- Critical lift procedures

- Confined space entry